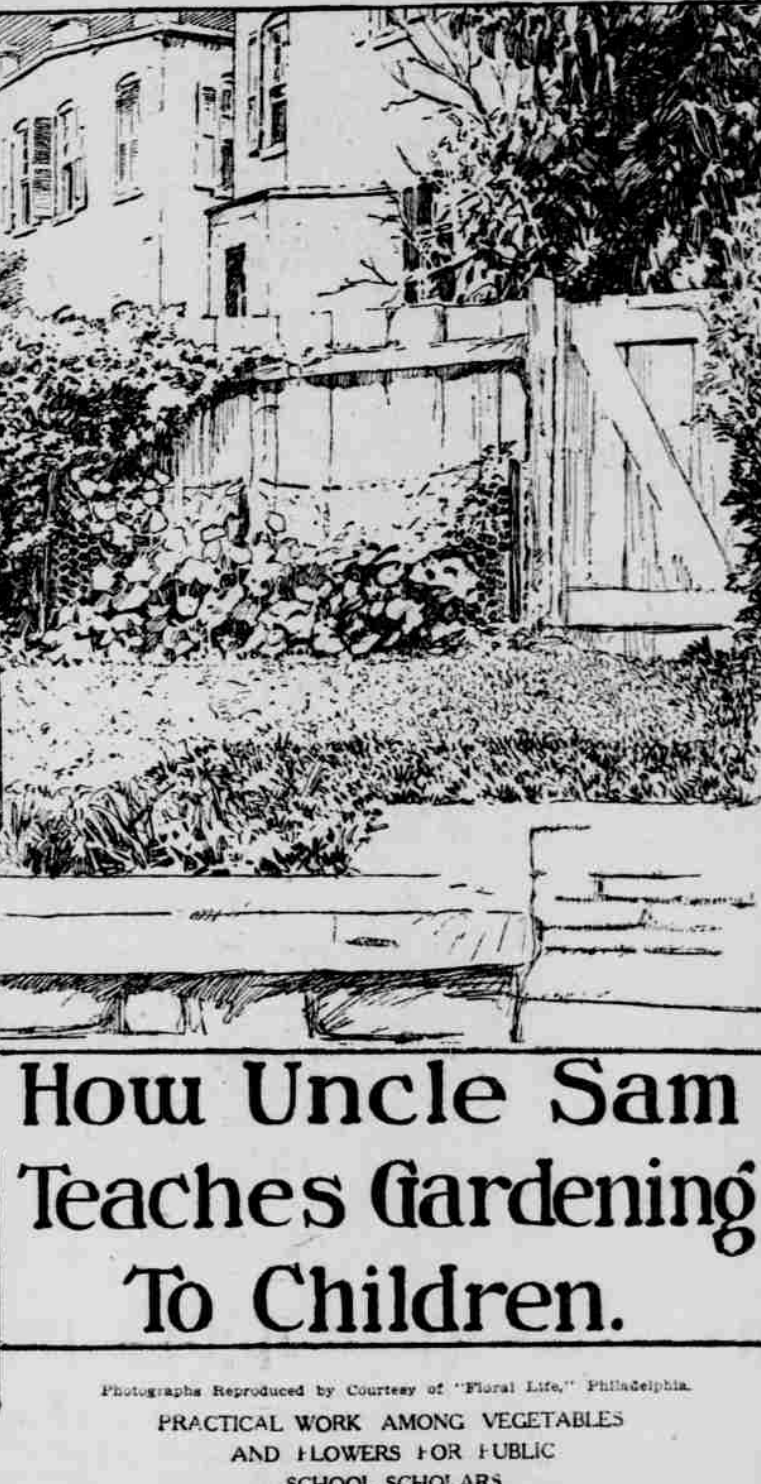


School for Housewives- by Marion Harland.



How Uncle Sam Teaches Gardening To Children.

Photographs Reproduced by Courtesy of "Floral Life," Philadelphia.

PRACTICAL WORK AMONG VEGETABLES
AND FLOWERS FOR PUBLIC
SCHOOL SCHOLARS

A FEW years ago the Department of Agriculture hit upon the happy idea of interesting public school children in practical gardening. The plan was received with enthusiasm by the little circle of thinkers to whom it was first made known. There was a simple and pleasurable way of accomplishing a number of good ends. A way to keep the children interested and occupied in the open air and to stimulate their power of observation, at the same time causing form or dilapidated back yards to blossom like the wilderness.

In the beginning the philanthropy was beset by many difficulties. One of the greatest of these was the fact that few teachers knew a pea vine from a pea plant.

Various methods were used to introduce the children to the seeds. In some instances little envelopes containing the latter were distributed to the pupils, with the laconic direction, "Plant."

It is likely that all of the seeds were planted—but not all of them grew.

One lot carefully covered the envelope with six inches of soil, and eagerly awaited results. Several bricks were removed from the pavement by another youngster, the seeds most carefully distributed upon the earth and the bricks as punctiliously returned to their former location.

Since that time civic leagues, women's clubs and similar institutions have helped along the good cause by distributing seeds, with directions for planting on the pocket.

The results have been much more satisfactory than by the first method. The lasting and most valuable results, however, must be obtained through intelligent teaching the subject in the

schools. In a short time the public schools of Washington, D. C., hope to be a model in this work for other cities.

The chief of the Bureau of Plant Industry of the Department of Agriculture, Dr. B. T. Galloway, realizing the value of well-organized work through the medium of the public schools, placed at the disposal of the Normal School, a workroom, a greenhouse and all material necessary for an elementary course in horticulture. The course is under his careful guidance. Two hours a week during one term is the time allotted to it.

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By this method the city receives an addition of fifty to its teaching corps each year, equipped to handle the subject intelligently with children under their immediate care and to give inspiration and ideas to other teachers.

All facts are taught by experiments, the workroom being really a laboratory. Germination experiments are performed in the spring, showing seed vitality, conditions for planting and depth of planting. Plant propagation by cuttings, budding and grafting are taught. Germination, rootlet, tap, by drainage, response, by are propagated in the fall and grown in the greenhouse during the winter. Cuttings of forsythia and privet are buried in sand and to be ready for planting in the spring. Young apple seedlings are grafted. The material is used to beautify school-rooms during the winter and school grounds in the warm weather.

In the spring each student has her home garden in which she applies her knowledge.

The beautifying of back yards is not the primary object in this course. It comes usually as a result of the effort expended, but the real aim is to cultivate close observation of plant life, to instill a love for plant culture, and by so doing awaken the young student teachers in school of home, and to enable them to be an inspiration to others from the fullness of their own knowledge.

Some of the students prefer to devote their time to but one variety of plant, bringing to a high state of perfection. Sweet peas, poppies and nasturtiums have been prime favorites for years after methods of good planting, keeping the center of the yard in grass and mowing the plants in borders. A box gardening, but whatever the form, it has always brought pleasure with it. In addition to the work mentioned, the course of instruction calls for planning, improvements of school grounds, attention is selected. Each student submits a plan for improving its grounds without reducing the playground.

The best plan is accepted and followed.

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W. J. Minnesota.

Housewives, Parents and Children Discuss Topics of Mutual Interest

Enriching the Roaches

I HAVE never written before, but in a recent number I read "L. M. S." recipe for cleaning an enameled bathtub. Can I tell you what I do? For years I have scrubbed and scrubbed the tub and stationary washstand, and a good friend told me the following. It saves both time and backache.

Four coal oil into an old dish; take a white soft cloth, dip in the oil and smear all over the tub. The stains come off at once. Then wash same over thoroughly with warm suds. It works like a miracle. I do the same with the washstand and water closet. My bathroom has tiled sides, and it takes all night to scrub.

I am plagued with light brown roaches around the stove. I have tried every remedy I have read in your columns, but without success. I just cannot get rid of them.

I am afraid this letter is too long and will reach the scrap basket, but I will close by thanking the different ones for the help they have given me. I have received reading in your paper.

MRS. E. W.

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Soiled Leather Pillow

PLEASE let me know how to clean a leather pillow that is soiled by constant use, and oblige. J. C. M. Colorado.

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W. J. Minnesota.

Cleaning a Shawl

WILL you please tell me how to clean a white shawl, as mine is badly soiled? Colorado. A. M. C.

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W. J. Minnesota.

Glue on the Carpet

KINDLY tell me how to take a glue stain from a carpet. I put a piece of old cloth over a new carpet. When I took the old cloth up the glue had adhered to the carpet. The figures are all right, but they are covered with a dark stain, looking like grease. K. H. H.

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W. J. Minnesota.

Sassafras and Rheumatism

SOMEONE asked how to use sassafras for rheumatism. If it is not against the rules of this department, would you print this extract from an old doctor's book printed in 1841?

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W. J. Minnesota.

Removing Ink Stains

THE other day I saw in your column a request about taking ink out of paper, so I enclose the following recipe, as I have been greatly helped by it. One pound of alcohol of time to four quarts of water. Shake well together

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